

IOWA BIRD LIFE



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

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Birding In N.W. Iowa - A.D. 1000

PATRICIA M. WILLIAMS
Sanford Museum
117 E. Willow
CHEROKEE, IOWA

Introduction

In the past few years, archaeologists have become increasingly aware of the importance of studying prehistoric man's environment. This naturally includes a study of the avifauna. The present article summarizes two published sources available for northwest Iowa. The first, entitled "Bird Remains from a Sioux (sic) Indian Midden" by J. Hill Hamon, appeared in *Plains Anthropologist*. It reports on the avifauna found in a Mill Creek culture site (Fig. 1) dating ca. A. D. 900-1300 and located north of Cherokee in Cherokee County. The second report, by Donna Scott, appeared in "Environmental Archaeology in Western Iowa" (David A. Baerreis, ed.) published in the *Northwest Iowa Archaeological Society Newsletter*. This report deals with bird remains found in a site of the Great Oasis culture dating about A. D. 850-1150 and located north of Sioux City in Plymouth County.

Both the Great Oasis and Mill Creek peoples were horticulturists, and as can be seen by the dates, occupied northwest Iowa at about the same time. The Mill Creek site (Phipps) represents a midden area where the people lived for a long period of time. The bird remains studied were found throughout layered trash in the midden. In the Great Oasis site (Broken Kettle West), the remains of earthlodges were excavated. All the bird remains presented in Scott's analysis are from the storage pits (which were later converted to trash pits) in a single earthlodge. A list of the birds found at these two sites can be seen in Table I.

What has been learned?

The study of avifauna from archaeological sites can yield a great deal of information. Perhaps the most important are clues to the economy, diet and environment of prehistoric peoples. By combining the study of birds with an analysis of such items as seeds, snails, mammals, fish, etc., the archaeologist can obtain valuable insights into the climate and environment of the past. Studies such as these are especially important due to ever changing climatic conditions. The more we know about the past, the better we can understand the present and predict the future.

If the birds represented in an archaeological context are nearly identical in type and percentage to those found in the same locality today, we might suspect that the basic ecology was also similar. The only birds found on the Phipps Site that are not found in this area today are the Passenger Pigeon, now extinct, and the Common Raven. Since all other species are still present, we know that the avian community basically resembles that of today.

We must keep in mind that the sample from any Indian site is not necessarily a true reflection of all the birds present at any given time. It reflects not only the local ecology, but the particular species of birds used by man. In this regard, we might note that 28.4 percent of the birds at the Phipps Site were birds of prey (Hamon 1961:211) while none were found at Broken Kettle West (Scott 1970:10). This does not mean there were no hawks, owls, etc. living in Plymouth County, it

This report is a modified version of a speech by Duane C. Anderson given to the Sioux City Bird Club, March 21, 1973.

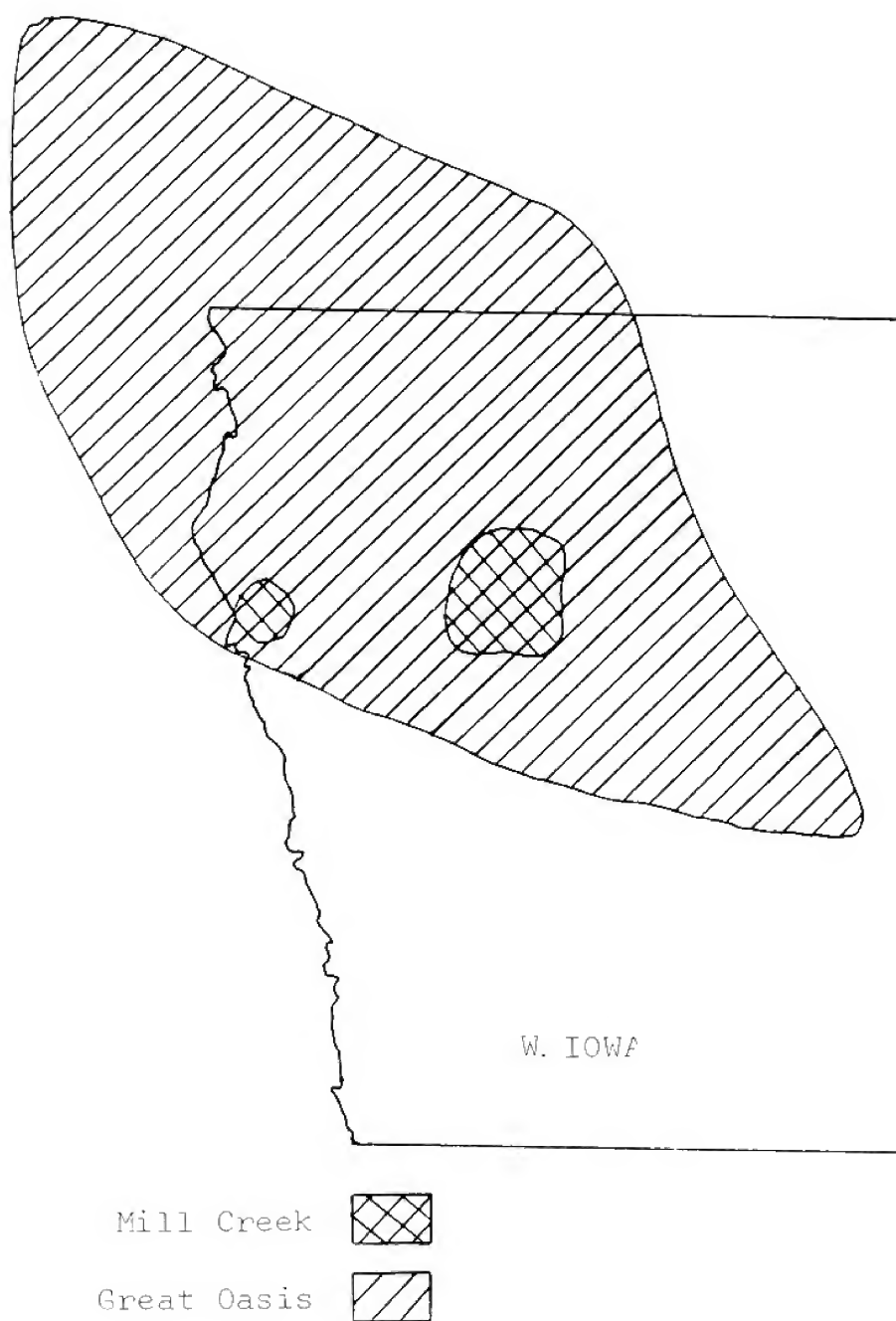


Figure 1. Distribution of Mill Creek and Great Oasis cultures in Iowa ca. A. D. 1000.

simply means that for some reason the people were not hunting them. Further, it does not mean that the people at the Phipps Site were necessarily using all of these birds for food, since some may have been captured for their plumage or for ceremonial purposes.

Keeping this problem in mind, it is possible to make some statements regarding the environment of the past. Figure 2 (based on Scott 1970:10) compares the two sites and shows the various species divided into five main groups: woodland, raptorial, prairie, marsh and aquatic. The Phipps Site shows a greater emphasis on woodland and raptorial species while Broken Kettle West had greater emphasis on aquatic species. Both sites show about equal utilization of prairie and marsh species. This would seem to indicate the environment at the Phipps Site was mainly "deciduous woodland with nearby prairies and marshes" (Hamon 1961:211). The extremely large percentage of waterfowl at Broken Kettle West (79.9 percent) reflects the fact that the site is located less than ten miles from the Missouri and Big Sioux Rivers and that the people were taking advantage of the abundant waterfowl along these waterways.

Through the study of bird remains, it is sometimes possible to speculate on the season during which a site was inhabited. Spring occupation at Broken Kettle West is documented by the presence of a medullary bone from a large bird. This bone is only present in female birds for a short time during the reproductive period (Scott 1970:9).

Spring and/or fall occupation is evident due to the large number of migratory bird remains present, especially the waterfowl (Hamon 1961:211; Baerreis ed. 1970:15). Probable winter occupation of the Phipps Site is shown by the presence of the Rough-legged Hawk (Hamon 1961:211) and at Broken Kettle West by the Snow Bunting. Due to the absence of bones of any young birds at the Phipps Site (p. 211) coupled with the fact that there were no typical summer species at either site, both Hamon (p. 211) and Baerreis ed. (1970:15) were able to state that the sites were probably not occupied during the summer.

Some dietary information can also be gleaned from a study of remains found in a site, including the bird remains. Dallman (1970:13) speculated that birds comprised a small amount of the meat eaten (approximately 6 percent) at Broken Kettle West. As might be expected, the greatest share of the meat (about 90 percent) came from large mammals such as deer and elk.

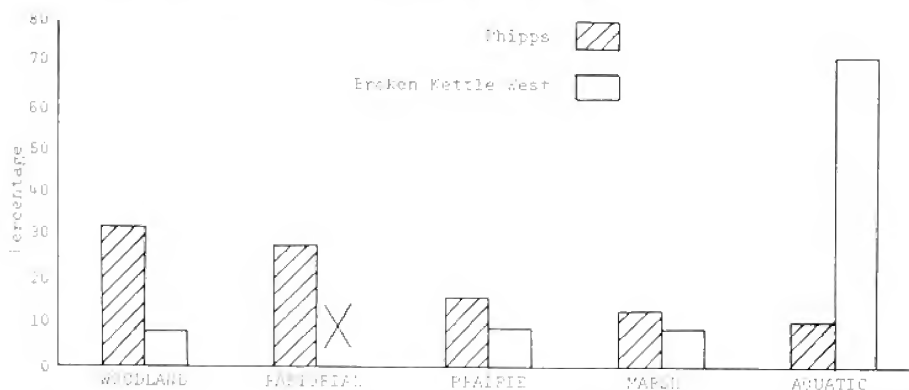


Figure 2. Comparison of bird types found at the Phipps Site and Broken Kettle West.

TABLE I
SPECIES FOUND AT THE PHIPPS
BROKEN KETTLE WEST SITES

Species	Phipps	Broken Kettle West
Pied-billed Grebe (<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>)	-	X
White Pelican (<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>)	X	-
Double-crested Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>)	X	X
American Bittern (<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>)	X	-
Bittern (<i>Ardeidae</i>)	-	X
Trumpeter Swan (<i>Olor buccinator</i>)	X	X
Canada Goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>)	X	X
Snow Goose (<i>Chen caerulescens</i>)	X	X
Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	X	?
Black Duck (<i>A. rubripes</i>)	-	?
Gadwall (<i>A. strepera</i>)	X	X
Pintail (<i>A. acuta</i>)	X	X
Green-winged Teal (<i>A. carolinensis</i>)	X	-
Blue-winged Teal (<i>A. Discors</i>)	X	-
American Wigeon (<i>Mareca americana</i>)	X	-
Shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>)	X	-
Wood Duck (<i>Aix sponsa</i>)	-	X
Redhead (<i>Aythya americana</i>)	-	X
Ring-necked Duck (<i>A. collaris</i>)	-	X
Canvasback (<i>A. valisineria</i>)	X	X
Greater Scaup (<i>A. marilla</i>)	-	X
Lesser Scaup (<i>A. affinis</i>)	X	X
American Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	-	X
Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)	-	X
Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	X	-
Red-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>)	X	-
Red-shouldered Hawk (<i>B. lineatus</i>)	X	-
Broad-winged Hawk (<i>B. platypterus</i>)	X	-
Swainson's Hawk (<i>B. swainsoni</i>)	X	-
Rough-legged Hawk (<i>B. lagopus</i>)	X	-
Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	X	-
Greater Prairie Chicken (<i>Tympanuchus cupido</i>)	X	X
Sharp-tailed Grouse (<i>Pedioecetes phasianellus</i>)	X	X
Wild Turkey (<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>)	X	X
Sandhill Crane (<i>Grus canadensis</i>)	X	-
American Coot (<i>Fulica americana</i>)	X	-
Long-billed Curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)	X	-
Passenger Pigeon (<i>Ectopistes migratorius</i>)	X	-
Great Horned Owl (<i>Bubo virginianus</i>)	X	-
Flicker (<i>Colaptes auratus</i>)	X	-
Common Raven (<i>Corvus corax</i>)	X	-
Common Crow (<i>C. brachyrhynchos</i>)	X	-
Bobolink (<i>Dolichonyx orzivorus</i>)	X	-
Western Meadowlark (<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>)	-	X
Red-winged Blackbird (<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>)	X	X
Brewer's Blackbird (<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>)	X	-
Common Grackle (<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>)	X	X
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>)	-	X
Snow Bunting (<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>)	-	X

Concluding remarks

An adequate study of the avifauna from an Indian site can add a great deal to our knowledge of prehistory. When this study is coupled with that being done by other specialists (geologists, paleoecologists, palynologists, conchologists, etc.) we have a broader view of the past than ever before. Archaeology, like all other disciplines, is becoming a field of specialists. If enough people take up the study of bird remains as their speciality, we will not only learn more about the prehistoric cultures of our area, but we will be able to add significantly to our knowledge of the Natural History of birds in Iowa.

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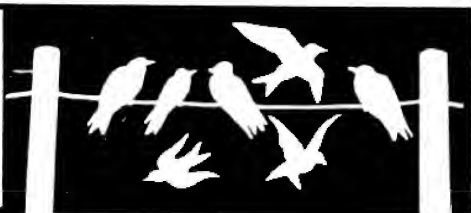
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CONVENTION



The fifty-third annual Iowa Ornithologists' Union Convention was held in Dubuque, Iowa on May 10-11, 1975. The host of the convention was the Dubuque Audubon Society. William Hermann, president of Dubuque Audubon Society, officially opened the meeting by welcoming the I. O. U. to Dubuque. Mr. Herrmann introduced Mr. Justmann, Mayor of Dubuque, who also welcomed the I. O. U. Mr. Justmann told the group that he was interested in the environment and that during his administration the city of Dubuque had begun a grass roots project to "soften" the environment and make the city more beautiful, which would be an advantage to bird life. President Darlene Ayers responded to the Dubuque welcome and thanked the Dubuque group for the invitation. She also told us about the beautiful bouquet of flowers that she had brought with her from Ottumwa. They were presented to her by her sixth grade class as a Mother's Day gift.

Mr. Herrmann introduced Dean Roosa of Ames who began the program with "The Red-tailed Hawk in Central Iowa". Mr. Roosa said that the population of hawks may be bouncing back as he had seen more hawks this spring than he has in 15 years. The Red-tailed Hawk was chosen for study by Mr. Roosa because the bird is very adaptive to man, relatively free of diseases, and long-lived. Mr. Roosa used slides to illustrate some areas of his research which were very enlightening. Mr.

Roosa feels that Iowa Red-tails are not "holding their own". Clutch size is down as well as the number of young fledged per nest. He believes that this is due to habitat destruction. Twelve nest sites in his study areas are gone chiefly in Wright County.

Vice-president Richard Crawford introduced the next speaker of the morning, Mr. Carl Kurtz of St. Anthony. Mr. Kurtz spoke on "Iowa's Remaining Tall Grass Prairie". Mr. Kurtz pointed out that there is not one national park which preserves prairie. He noted that tall grass prairies are America's most endangered landscape. Eighty-three percent of America was once prairie land. He noted that many of the prairie remnants are along railroad right-of-ways. He showed the group many beautiful slides of prairie plants and asked the group to sign a petition of the Nature Conservancy for the establishment of a national prairie park.

The last speaker of the morning was Roy Olivier of Mt. Pleasant, who presented a slide program entitled "Birds Here and There". Mr. Oliver's pictures were of birds, flowers and mammals that he has photographed near his home, or on trips. He ended his presentation with a series of photographs of the Bellingrath Gardens in Alabama.

Before adjourning the morning session, George Crossley of Dubuque made announcements about the Sunday morning field trips and asked members to sign up for the trips.

After the lunch break, the group reassembled in the meeting room of the Dubuque Y.M.C.A.—Y.W.C.A. Peter Petersen of Davenport was the first speaker of the afternoon. He presented a slide program entitled "Essentially Australia". The slides dealt with a trip Mr. and Mrs. Petersen made to Australia in 1974 to attend the Sixteenth International Ornithological Congress that was held in Canberra. Slides taken in Hawaii, Fiji, Sydney, Darwin, Alice Springs, Canberra, Brisbane and Tahiti were shown including many birds.

Hazel and Fitzhugh Diggs of Hamburg presented their slide program entitled "Conservation of our God-given Gifts". The Diggs, through their slides, again brought up the problem of habitat destruction. They also showed the senseless destruction which is caused by vandals. Included in their pictures was a series of slides taken on their property showing the habitat and some excellent picture of owls that have nested there.

After a brief break the business meeting was called to order by President Ayres. A motion to dispense with the minutes was moved and approved. The treasurer, Mrs. Ruth Buckles of Des Moines, then gave the following treasurer's report:

I. O. U. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

May 10, 1975

Balance on hand 5-11-74 -- Checking Account\$ 743.28

RECEIPTS:

Spring Meeting Receipts	\$ 902.50
Fall Meeting Receipts	72.00
Memberships	1,676.00
Check Lists	31.04
Decals	8.50
Brassards	23.00
Issues of Iowa Bird Life	14.00
Annotated Lists	9.50
Prints -- St. Francis & Birds -- Gordon Power	<u>10.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$2,746.54
Total Receipts and Bal. Fwd.	<u>3,489.82</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

Spring Meeting	940.32	
Fall Meeting	25.25	
	<u>965.57</u>	
Iowa Bird Life:		
Printing -- Monticello Express	1,810.28	
Editor's Fee	100.00	
Editor's Misc. Exp. -- Telephone	15.00	
	<u>1,925.28</u>	
Printing:		
Check Lists	168.08	
I.B.L. Mailing Envelopes	63.82	
	<u>231.90</u>	
Postage:		
Second Class Permit for I.B.L.	25.00	
Editor's Postage	24.00	
Treasurer's Postage	16.64	
	<u>65.64</u>	
Bank Charge -- Checks	2.48	
Gordon Power -- 1/2 Sale of Prints	5.00	
Total Expenses		<u>3,195.87</u>
BALANCE		\$ 293.95
Balance -- Central National Bank -- Des Moines -- Checking Account		\$ 293.95
Deposit -- United Federal Savings & Loan Certificate		\$2,000.00
Savings Account	\$ 126.39	(interest received for year \$133.39)

Ruth Buckles, Treasurer

Mr. Buckles gave the following membership report:

MEMBERSHIP

5-10-75

Regular	189
Supporting	87
Contributing	10
Junior	8
Life	12
Honorary Life	3
	<u>309</u>
Libraries	36
Societies	4
	<u>348</u>
New Members since 10-1-74 (included above)	
Regular	25
Supporting	7
Junior	2
	<u>34</u>

The president stated the reports were to be filed after asking for questions.

The president said the Nominations Committee had been selected previous to the meeting and that the members were Herb Dorow of Newton; Esther Copp of Wheatland and Betty Walter of Essex. She stated that the committee would welcome nominations from the floor when the slate was presented on Sunday.

The president then appointed Sara Milliken of Cedar Rapids, Lucile Liljedahl of Marion and Ruth Phipps of Shenandoah to be the resolutions committee. She appointed Virginia Van Liew of Des Moines and Ruth Binsfield of Des Moines to the auditing committee.

Peter Petersen, Editor of *Iowa Bird Life* gave his report next. He said that he was "in good shape on articles". He discussed the goal of publishing the bird finding in Iowa articles as a book when the state coverage is complete. He also mentioned the print done by Davenport artist Gordon Power was for sale and that due to the death of the artist probably only 13 of the 200 were signed.

The president called for old business. The fall meeting will be in Cherokee. Pat Williams of the Sanford Museum in Cherokee has invited the group for the weekend of September 13-14, 1975. The executive board voted to accept this invitation.

Peter Petersen invited the I. O. U. to hold the 1976 spring meeting at the Putnam Museum in Davenport on May 15-16. The executive board also voted to accept this invitation previous to the business meeting. It was discussed that this weekend would not be Mother's Day weekend as usual because the second weekend would be very early and migration might not be good for birding at that time.

The president then called for new business and stated a need for a 1976 fall meeting place. The Cedar Rapids Audubon Naturalists Society extended an invitation.

Woody Brown of Des Moines, Robert Vane of Cedar Rapids and F. W. Kent of Iowa City were recognized for their work on the new checklist. The president said that the executive board agreed that the checklists could be purchased by clubs for \$6.00 per hundred to be resold by the clubs.

A dues increase was then discussed. Mary Lou Petersen, I. O. U. secretary read the present bylaw on dues and then the executive board's proposed bylaw revision. Discussion followed. Peter Petersen explained the rational for the increases as well as the new family dues category. Mrs. Marjorie Hammer of Ottumwa moved to amend the bylaws concerning the dues change be accepted. The motion carried. The change is as follows:

Article II -- Dues

Section 1 -- The annual dues for the four classes of active membership shall be as follows: Contributing members -- \$15.00; Supporting members -- \$10.00; Family membership -- \$8.00; Regular members -- \$5.00.

Section 2 -- The annual dues of the junior members shall be two dollars.

The president brought up the possibility of waiving the registration fee for students to encourage more students to attend. It was mentioned that the meetings often conflicted with finals week.

The need to publish new membership information folders was discussed. In conjunction with the above discussion the need for a public relations committee was brought up. Dr. Glenn Blome of Ottumwa move that the chair appoint a public relations committee to promote the I. O. U. Sara Millikin moved to amend the motion to read the incoming president appoint the public relations committee. The amendment carried. The motion carried.

The membership was encouraged to consider having a book display at meetings. Anyone interested should contact Peter Petersen, host of the 1976 meeting.

Mr. Kirchgarter of Waterloo suggested that each member try to bring in a new member in 1976. Mrs. Vane moved the meeting be adjourned.

Following the banquet, President Ayres introduced the head table and of-

ficers. She recognized Mrs. Crawford's art work on the convention folder. She also recognized Judge Ayres Iowa Academy of Science award.

Local president, Bill Hermann, made some announcements and awarded the door prizes. Woodward Brown of Des Moines won a macrame owl. The table centerpieces were also given away.

The evening program was presented by Terry Ingram of Apple River, Illinois, entitled "Hope for our National Symbol?". Mr. Ingram showed slides of the land near Cassville, Wisconsin, being purchased as winter roosting sites for Bald Eagles. Following the slide presentation, Mr. Ingram showed a film of the area's eagles. Again the problem of habitat destruction was brought into focus.

Sunday morning, May 11, was devoted to bird watching. Although the late morning was marred by rain, the birding was excellent and a good list was compiled. Following the noon meal at the Girl Scout Camp, the business meeting was reopened. The president called for the resolutions committee to make their report. Sarah Millikin presented the following resolutions:

Be it resolved by the 53rd Annual Convention of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, meeting in Dubuque, Iowa, May 10th and 11th, 1975, that we, the members, give our thanks to the Dubuque Audubon Society for hosting the convention, and to the officers and members who worked hard and faithfully to make this meeting a pleasant one for all of us.

Be it further resolved that our thanks be given:

1. To Camp Little Cloud Girl Scout Council and to the employees and board of the Dubuque YM-YWCA for the use of their facilities and for their cooperation in making the I. O. U. comfortable in their accommodations.

2. To the Dubuque Mayor and Chamber of Commerce for the courtesies extended to us while in their city.

3. To Dean Roosa, Carl Kurtz, Roy Olivier, Peter Petersen and Hazel and Fitzhugh Diggs for preparing and presenting the Saturday program.

4. To Carl Kurtz, a special thank you for the National Conservancy exhibit.

5. To Terry Ingram for the Saturday evening banquet program.

6. To Pat Heidenreich, William Herrmann, Frieda Crossley and George Crossley who led the Sunday morning field trips.

7. To all those who have served as I. O. U. officers the past two years and to those who have accepted the responsibility of these offices for next year.

Respectfully submitted, Sara Millikin, Lucile Liljedahl and Dorothy Phelps.

John Osness moved that the resolutions be accepted. The motion carried.

Herbert Dorow presented the slate of officers: president, Dorothy Brunner; vice president, George Crossley; secretary, Mary Lou Petersen; treasurer, Ruth Buckles; executive board, John Osness, Robert Nicholson, Beryl Layton, Darlene Ayres. Dr. Glenn Blome moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot. The motion carried.

Dorothy Brunner took over as president and introduced herself. Mrs. Darrell Hanna of Sioux City stated it had been a pleasure having Mrs. Ayres as president. Mr. Herrmann thanked his helpers and the group. President Brunner called on Judge Charles Ayers to lead the compilation. Following the compilation, President Brunner adjourned the meeting. -- MARY LOU PETERSEN, SECY.

BIRD LIST

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Cattle Egret, American Bittern, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Bob-White, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot,

Killdeer, Common Snipe, Upland Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Gull (sp.), Forester's Tern, Caspian Tern, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and Song Sparrow. 140 species.

Attendance -- 112

AMES: Richard and Glinda Crawford, Dean Roosa.

CEDAR FALLS: Lucille Howe, Maxine and Mrs. Charles A. Schwanke.

CEDAR RAPIDS: Floy and Norman Erickson, Beryl and Patricia Layton, Sara Milliken, Roberta A. Oppedahl, Lillian Serbousek, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane.

CORALVILLE: Nancy and Andrew Davidson, Marlyn and Matthew Glasson, James and Elva Gritton.

DAVENPORT: Peter and Mary Lou Petersen.

DECORAH: Darwin Koenig.

DES MOINES: Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Atherton, Mr. and Mrs. Woodward H. Brown, Mrs. Ruth Buckles, Dr. and Mrs. Jack R. Jones, Jonathan Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mooney, Virginia Van Liew.

DUBUQUE: Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Basil Beal, Mr. and Mrs. George Crossley, Mr. and Mrs. John Feller, Mrs. Rosemary Giunta, Mr. and Mrs. Willis R. Gruwell, Mrs. Louise Halliburton, Mrs. Patricia Heidenreich, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Herold, Mr. and Mrs. William Herrmann, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Higley, Clifford Johnson, Mrs. Charlotte McInerney, Mrs. Pauline Ruegnitz, Miss Ival Schuster, Miss Phyllis Shultz, Mr. and Mrs. William Tullock, Mrs. Wanneta Wiederaenders, Rev. Robert Williams.

FAIRFIELD: Mrs. Viola Hayward.

HAMBURG: Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs.

IOWA CITY: Mr. and Mrs. Everett Alton, Margrieta Delle, Thomas Standt.

LAMONI: Mr. and Mrs. Wallace De Long.
 MARION: Mrs. Lucile Liljedahl.
 MAQUOKETA: Mrs. Grace Ehlers.
 MOUNT PLEASANT: Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ollivier.
 NEWTON: Mr. and Mrs. Herb Dorow.
 NORA SPRINGS: Dorothy Brunner.
 OELWEIN: Mrs. Florence Alton.
 OSKALOOSA: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jessen, Keith and Irene Layton.
 OTTUMWA: Judge Charles and Darlene Ayres, Dr. Glenn Blome, Bernard and Florence Fulton, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Haller.
 ROCK VALLEY: Hilda Miller.
 SIGOURNEY: Mrs. Charles Phelps.
 ST. ANTHONY: Carl Kuntz.
 SIOUX CITY: Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Hanna.
 WATERLOO: Myrle Burk, Huldah Flynn, Mabelle Hinkley, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Kirchgatter, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Miller, Mr. and Mrs. John Osness, Mrs. Edith Wallace.
 WHEATLAND: C. Esther Copp.
 WILLIAMSBURG: Warren Jones.
 APPLE RIVER, ILLINOIS: Terry Ingram.
 OAK PARK, ILLINOIS: Linda and Hank Zalatel.
 PLATTEVILLE, WISCONSIN: Marilyn Millett.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear I. O. U. Members,

Thank you for the honor of being selected president of such an interesting and worthwhile organization. I hope that I can serve you as well as have my predecessors.

It is always a pleasure to meet the old faithful members each year and to get acquainted with new ones. I think that many of the authorities on birds in Iowa belong to the I. O. U. and attend the meetings regularly. I count it a privilege to 'bird' with them and through this association I have learned to identify many species.

On May 14, I had an interesting experience while attending a bird-watch in Mason City. This seems to be an annual affair each spring. There was an enthusiastic group there but very few could identify the birds. I was wearing my green birding jacket with the I. O. U. "patch" on the shoulder. Several people noticed it and inquired about becoming members of the organization. I began writing down their names and addresses but soon noticed that quite a group had surrounded me. Of course, I did not have Ruth Buckles' address with me so I told them that I would try to get an article in the daily paper giving that information. When I got to the Globe Gazette office the employees I talked with have heard of the organization! Well, they have now and the I. O. U. made the headlines. There has never been a bird club in the Mason City area. I hope the interested people will join us. Some expressed a desire to have bird classes in Mason City. I hope to do something about that, too.

When you go for an outing be sure to wear your I.O.U. patch and carry Buckles' address in your pocket. You might be surprised at the inquiries you will get and the friends you will make for the birds.

Our neighboring state, Minnesota, has over 800 members in their organization. How do they do it? I am told that the Minnesotans take their birding seriously. I expect to attend the M. O. U meeting at Luverne, Minnesota on May 31 - June 1.

Perhaps I can pick up a few pointers.

I hope to see many of you in Cherokee next September. In the meantime keep looking for new birds and new members. We should be able to double our membership as Iowa is a highway for migrating birds.

Best wishes always, Dorothy A. Brunner

Winter Hawk Population Trends in Iowa

DARWIN KOENIG

DECORAH, IOWA

PART I

The "Blue List" for 1975, published in the December, 1974, issue of *American Birds*, lists twelve species from the order Falconiformes (throughout the remainder of this paper the general term "hawk" will be used to signify the members of this order) that are apparently declining in all or parts of their ranges. Ten of the listed hawk species occur, at least occasionally, in Iowa. To determine recent hawk population trends in Iowa, Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's) for the 25-year period 1949 to 1973 were analyzed.

Three hundred and thirty nine Iowa CBC's from 30 different localities were published in *American Birds* (and *Audubon Field Notes*) during the study period. All but three of these counts contained at least one hawk. A total of 8,304 hawks representing 18 species was observed during the 8,730 hours of observation and 58,299 miles of travel recorded on the counts during the study period.

As these counts are taken in the latter part of December, this study deals with early winter hawk populations. However, it is the author's opinion that the CBC's give a reasonably accurate portrayal of the hawk population for the entire winter, at least in the northern half of Iowa. Craighead and Craighead (1969:15) stated that "During every winter the hawk population became stabilized by December, showing little change in composition or numbers until spring." Morrissey (1968:70) observed that "Birds (Cooper's Hawks) which were to be winter residents had usually established wintering territories by early November." However, he further states (p. 71) "About half of all wintering territories selected were deserted by the first part of January." The latter observation may be an example of what Craighead and Craighead (1969) termed "drift". Late lingering migrants, especially during a mild fall, and drift might alter the winter populations somewhat, but probably not significantly.

The data were analyzed in basically three ways: (1) hawk density (number of hawks per 100 party miles), (2) frequency of occurrence (the percentage of counts on which a species was found), and (3) percent of the total population that each species constituted. Density was calculated yearly and for five-year periods for the commonly found species of hawks. It was also calculated for "groups" (i.e., Accipiters, Buteos, eagles, Marsh Hawks, and falcons) of hawks for five-year periods. Frequency of occurrence was calculated for five-year periods for the common species of hawks.

The state was arbitrarily divided into north and south halves and east and west halves in the hope of obtaining a better insight into the hawk population trends. Forty-two degrees N latitude was used as the north-south dividing line and 93 degrees 30' W longitude as the east-west dividing line.

Only three localities reported a count for each year of the study period (25). Two localities reported 24 counts, six localities reported one count, and the other 14 localities reported from 3 to 21 counts. Sixteen localities were located in the southern half and 14 localities in the northern half of the state. Seventeen localities were from the eastern half and 13 were from the western half of the state. Hawk density varied greatly from one count locality to another. The densities were generally highest in the southeast quadrant of the state.

Figure 1 compares the yearly hawk densities from counts in the northern and southern halves of the state. With the exception of 1962, the hawk density was always greatest in the southern half. The author is of the opinion that there is no significant difference in the habitats (as relate to wintering hawks) of the northern and southern parts of the state, consequently, the relative scarcity of hawks in the north is probably due to a difference in temperature. The southern half of the state averages from 10 degrees to 15 degrees warmer than the north. It also averages less snowfall. Graber and Golden (1960) reported much the same phenomenon in their Illinois study. See, also, Bock and Lepthien (1974) and Tramer (1974) for the effects of climate on bird distribution.

FIGURE 1
DENSITY (%/100 MI) OF HAWKS IN THE
NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN HALVES OF IOWA

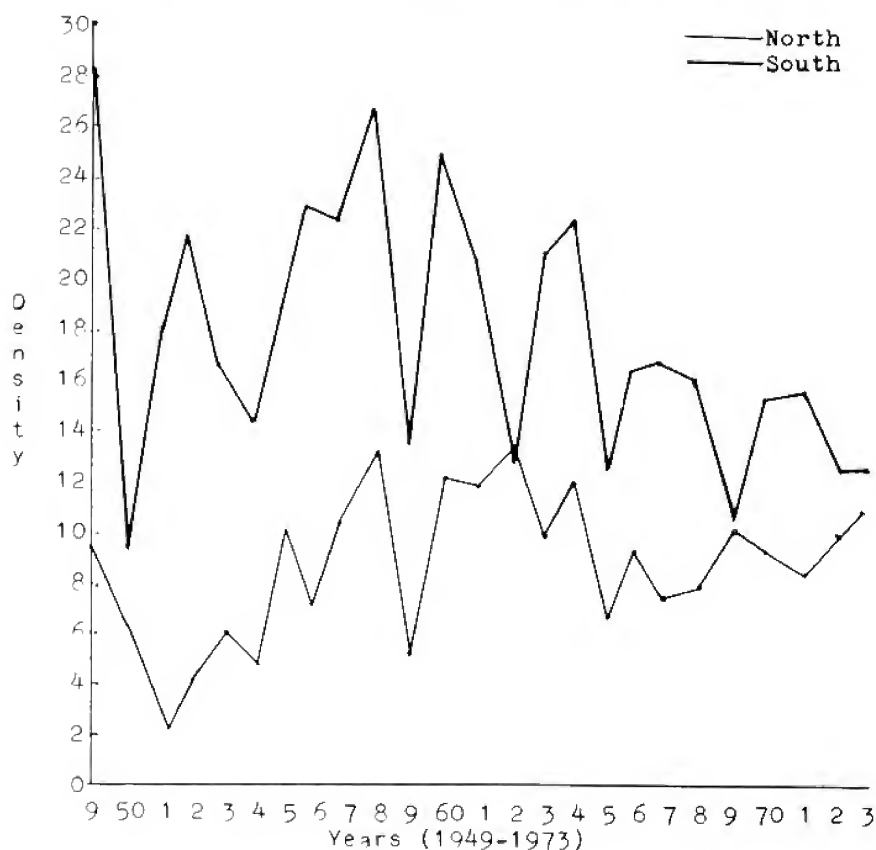


Figure 2 compares the yearly hawk densities from counts in the eastern half and the western half of the state. With the exception of 1952 and 1970, the highest densities were recorded from the east. This is, perhaps, to be expected because the east is bordered by the Mississippi River with its high concentrations of Bald Eagles. Also, the east contains most of the state's forest areas, consequently, it reports most of the wood-land loving hawks such as Red-shouldered Hawk and the three species of Accipiter.

FIGURE II
DENSITY (%/MI) OF HAWKS IN THE
EASTERN AND WESTERN HALVES OF IOWA

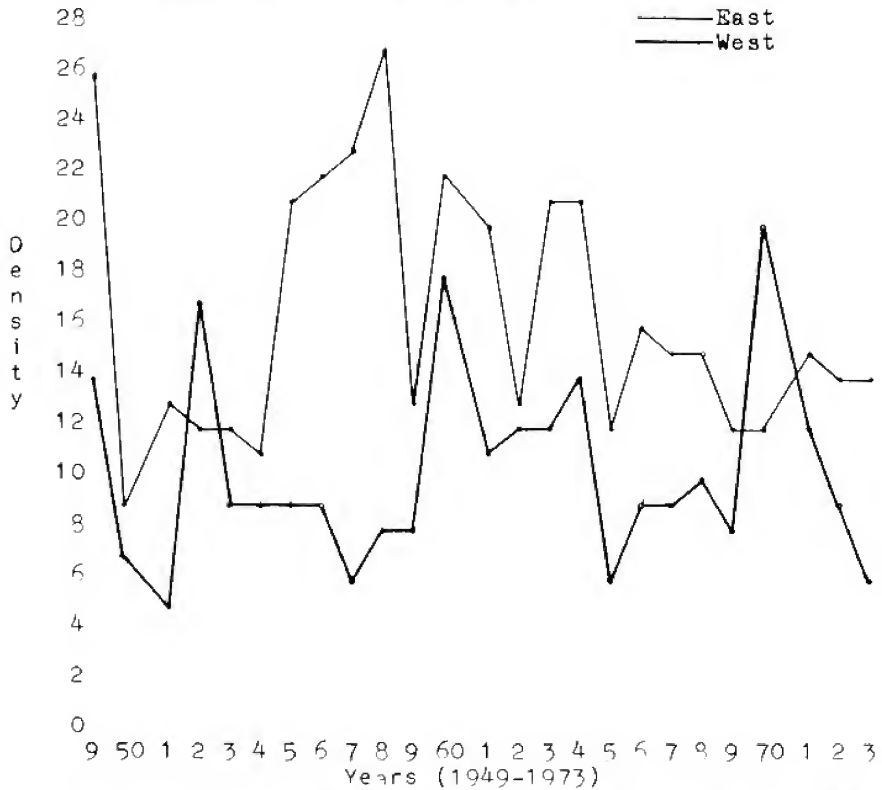


Table 2 gives the average densities of the composite hawk population and each hawk group during each of the five-year periods into which the study was divided. The composite hawk density reached a peak of 17.7 hawks per 100 party-miles in the mid to late 1950's and has steadily declined since. This has been basically the trend of each hawk species, although some have experienced an upward trend during the last five-year period (see the graph for each hawk species).

Table 3 gives the percentage of the total hawk population that each hawk group comprised. The Buteos have decreased from 70 percent of the total hawk population to 52 percent. The eagles have increased from 8 percent of the hawk population to 25 percent. The other hawk groups have remained relatively unchanged. Two species, Red-shouldered Hawk (decrease) and Bald Eagle (increase), have had significant changes in their winter populations.

TABLE 1

County Locality	No. of Counts	Geographic Area	Avg. Hawk Density (No. - 100 mi.)
Ames	5	S, W	1.7
Atlantic	1	S, W	18.2
Buffalo Center	5	N, W	16.0
Burlington	9	S, E	23.4
Cedar Falls	21	N, E	5.7
Cedar Rapids	4	S, E	8.5
Clinton	18	S, E	17.0
Davenport	24	S, E	18.2
Decorah	18	N, E	11.0
Des Moines	25	S, W	9.2
Dubuque	25	N, E	15.1
Estherville	5	N, W	3.6
Guernsey	1	S, E	38.5
Humboldt Co.	1	N, W	1.6
Iowa City	24	S, E	25.3
Jefferson	1	S, W	16.7
Lamoni	12	S, W	26.8
Lansing	1	N, E	15.3
Liscomb	3	N, E	7.0
Mt. Vernon	14	S, E	14.9
Muscatine	13	S, E	19.5
Newton	3	S, E	14.1
Princeton-Camanche	5	S, E	14.3
Sanborn	1	N, W	20.0
Shenandoah	19	S, W	14.4
Sioux City	25	N, W	5.7
Union Slough	13	N, W	10.3
Wapsipinicon River (also Sweets Marsh, Tripoli, Waterloo)	20	N, E	14.0
Webster City	4	N, W	3.1
Yellow River Forest (also Harpers Ferry, McGregor)	19	N, E	9.7

TABLE 2
5-YEAR AVG. DENSITY (NO. -100 PARTY-MILES)

5-year Period	All Hawks	Accipiters	Buteos	Eagles	Marsh Hawk	Falcons
49-53	10.2	.3	7.1	.8	1.1	.8
54-58	17.7	.6	10.1	4.2	1.0	1.9
59-63	16.0	.4	10.0	3.1	1.0	1.5
64-68	13.9	.2	8.1	3.5	.8	1.2
69-73	12.7	.3	6.6	3.2	1.3	1.3
25-year Average	14.2	.3	8.2	3.3	1.1	1.4

TABLE 3
COMPOSITION OF TOTAL HAWK POPULATION

5-year Period	Accipiters %	Buteos %	Eagles %	Marsh Hawk %	Falcons %
49-53	2.7	70.2	8.3	10.4	8.3
54-58	3.3	56.3	23.7	5.9	10.7
59-63	2.4	62.4	19.5	6.4	9.5
64-68	1.4	58.6	25.4	6.1	8.4
69-73	2.7	52.1	25.2	10.0	9.9
25-year Average	2.4 %	57.7 %	22.9 %	7.5 %	9.5 %

TABLE 4
MILES, HOURS, AND NO. OF COUNTS IN EACH 5-YEAR PERIOD

5-year Period	Miles	Hours	No. of Counts
49-53	3,301	844	43
54-58	7,857	1,492	63
59-63	12,505	1,805	78
64-68	15,147	1,980	75
69-73	19,489	2,609	80
25-year Total	58,299	8,730	339

TABLE 5
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CBC'S IN IOWA

5-year Period	North		South		East		West	
	#	Counts %	#	Counts %	#	Counts %	#	Counts %
49-53	21	6	22	6	31	9	12	4
54-58	35	10	28	8	41	12	22	6
59-63	42	12	36	11	47	14	31	9
64-78	36	11	39	12	47	14	28	8
69-73	28	8	52	15	56	17	24	7
25-year Total	162	48	177	52	222	65	117	35

Figures 12 to 19 give the frequency of occurrence, for five-year periods, for the more common species of hawks found in winter. Five of the eight listed species have increased in frequency. This does not necessarily mean that they have increased in population. Graber and Golden (1960: pp 8-9) felt that increases in frequency during their Illinois study "... probably resulted largely from three changes in the Christmas census methods: (1) attempts by observers to "better" the records of previous years; (2) increases in the number of observers; (3) wider coverage of the census locality areas through the use of automobiles."

The author would like to amend the above list by adding that changes in the geographic distribution of the count locations can also bring about changes in frequencies. In Iowa the Bald Eagle has been so affected and, perhaps, other species as well. Table 5 gives the distribution of CBC's in Iowa and table 4 shows the increase in "count effort" during the study period.

In the following pages the data for each of the 18 species of Hawks observed during the study are presented. The status of each species is given as

described in the works of DuMont (1933) and Brown (1971b).

I wish to thank Woodward Brown for reading an earlier draft of this paper and for the advice and suggestions that he gave to me. I also wish to thank Pete Petersen and Fred Pierce for their advice and encouragement.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

DuMont -- "A fairly common summer resident, most numerous in the southern half of the state."

Brown -- "Uncommon breeding bird."

The Turkey Vulture withdraws to the southern states in winter, however, Muscatine reported one in 1970.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

DuMont -- "Normally a rare and irregular winter visitor."

Brown -- "Rare migrant, winter resident."

Twenty five Goshawks were reported from 15 counts during the study period. Cedar Falls reported four in 1957 for the high count.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*

DuMont -- "... found occasionally in winter."

Brown -- "Uncommon permanent resident."

The Sharp-shinned Hawk comprised .9 percent of the total hawk population and occurred on 17 percent of the total counts (table 6). It was most common in the south and the east. Figure 4 shows that the peak densities were reached in the mid to late 1950's. Figure 4 also shows some evidence of a peak density every three years. The highest number of Sharp-shinned Hawks on a count was three at Clinton (several times) and at Lamoni in 1972.

Arbib (1974) includes the Sharp-shinned on the Blue List for 1975. Brown (1973) presents a 20-year survey of the Sharp-shinned Hawk population trend based on data from the national CBC's.

FIGURE 4
YEARLY AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE DENSITIES (NO. PER 100 MI)
OF THE SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

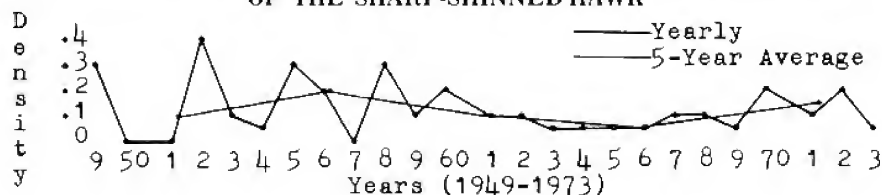
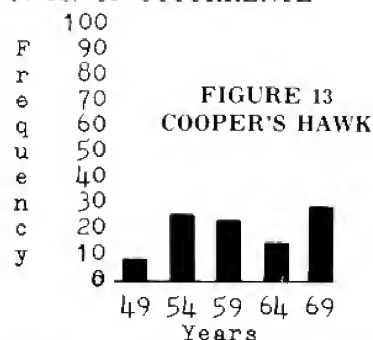
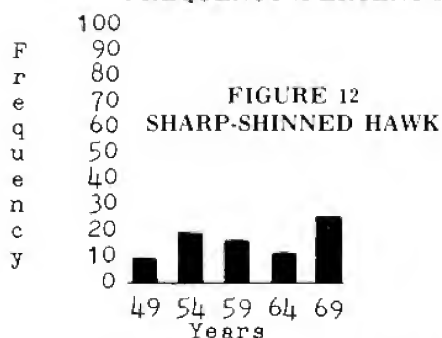


TABLE 6
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

	Number		Density (No. per 100 mi)	Frequency of Occurrence	
	Observed	Percent		No. of counts	Percent
North	15	21	.08	15	27
South	57	79	.1	41	73
East	56	78	.1	42	75
West	16	22	.08	14	25
Total	72 (.9 percent of total hawk no.'s)			56 (17 percent of total counts)	

* During most of the study period Harlan's Hawk, *Buteo harlani*, was considered a full species. It has recently been demoted to a subspecies and is treated as such in this paper.

FIGURES 12 AND 13
FREQUENCY (PERCENT OF COUNTS) OF OCCURRENCE



The year indicates the beginning of the 5-year period.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*

DuMont -- "This species is somewhat more frequently found as a wintering bird than is the Sharp-shinned Hawk."

Brown -- "Uncommon permanent resident."

The Cooper's Hawk comprised 1.2 percent of the total hawk population and occurred on 20 percent of the total counts (table 7). It was more common in the south and the east than the north and west. Like the Sharp-shinned, the Cooper's Hawk reached peak densities in the mid to late 1950's (figure 5). The highest number of Cooper's Hawks on a count was five at Davenport in 1958.

The Cooper's Hawk has been declining nationally (Boyajian, 1968; Spofford, 1969; and Shriver, 1969), however, see Brown (1973). Arbib (1974) includes the Cooper's Hawk on the Blue List for 1975. To be concluded in Sept. ed.

FIGURE 5
YEARLY AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE DENSITIES (NO. PER 100 MI)
OF THE COOPER'S HAWK

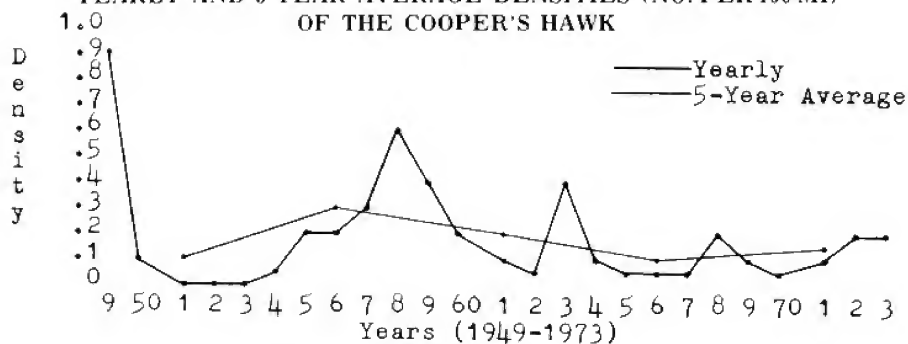


TABLE 7
COOPER'S HAWK

	Number		Density	Frequency of Occurrence	
	Observed	Percent	(No. per 100 mi)	No. of counts	Percent
North	16	16	.08	13	19
South	85	84	.2	56	81
East	88	87	.2	57	83
West	13	13	.06	12	17
Total	101 (1.2 percent of total hawk no.'s)			69 (20 percent of	
(to be completed in September issue, ed.				total counts)	

(to be completed in September issue. ed.)

Iowa Bird Banding Summary for 1974

KEITH & IRENE LAYTON

Oskaloosa, Iowa

An interesting year has ended for Iowa bird banders, with many unusual and exciting things having taken place. Some great totals were turned in for certain species banded, such as the 2,034 Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Juncos. Leader for this species by far was Pete Petersen with 885, and ourselves limping in second at only 258! And we thought we got tired of Juncos. Second banded in numbers this year was our own Iowa bird, the American Goldfinch with 1,716 banded. Charles & Darleen Ayres out-ran the pack with 693, and along comes Ruth Phipps with 467. Third place, this goes to the dainty little Ruby-crowned Kinglet, with 642 of the interesting little mites listed. Pete again had an imposing score of 436, believe it or not. Next in fourth place, Purple Finches were abundant with 634 being banded, guess who had the most, the Ayres with 356, no less, and a big share of them right on their front porch. We were happy to help them a couple of times, to come in second this year with 154 banded. The majority of ours, however, were banded in Robert Jessen's backyard right here in Oskaloosa. Close on their heels, so to speak were 621 Gray Catbirds, 574 Robins, 547 White-throated Sparrows, 473 Tree Sparrows, 445 Pine Siskins, 404 Song Sparrows. Nobody reported a Prothonotary Warbler, an Evening Grosbeak, Ring-necked Pheasant, Cattle Egret, or a Goshawk.

Pete was alone with 7 Saw-whet Owls, Roosa had an impressive 10 Great Horned Owls. By the way, last year we reported that Bob Jessen and I were baby sitting a Great Horned Owl's nest. We succeeded in watching the young owls hatch and grow up, and banded them, plus a second nest with 2 young owls discovered in the same woods a few days later. This year (1975) we have been unable to locate a single nest in this area. Pete again was impressive with 10 Sharp-shinned Hawks, as was Mosman with 10 American Kestrels and Pete with 7 Broad-winged Hawks. Roosa was in there with 9 Red-tailed Hawks. Hawks are looking up, that's good. In 1972, 94 Red-headed Woodpeckers were banded, this year only 33, what happened? Bank Swallows are down, our colonies have simply dried up. Diggs dug up 3 Carolina Chickadees for possible the most unusual species to be added to the Iowa list this year. (As far as I am able to determine this is a first). The same as their most unusual Poor-will appears to be yet another first and how about the MacGillvray's Warbler? Nice going folks. Pete added another first for Iowa with the Chukar.

Our "Only One Club" this year is the biggest yet, unless I err in counting, with 17. All of you can join the Club, folks . . . just catch and band the only one of any species in the state this coming year, and you are in.

Our leaders this year are Fitzhugh & Hazel Diggs with 6, good ones too . . . Poor-will, MacGillvray's Warbler, Semi palmed Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Cape May Warbler, Brewer's Blackbird. Remember now, we get all your spares next year.

Peter C. Petersen was a strong second with 5, including Alder Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, Hen slow's Sparrow, Green Heron, and the above mentioned Chukar.

Keith & Irene Layton came up with three this year, the Virginia Rail, Solitary Sandpiper and Chuck-will's-widow.

Charles & Darleen Ayres are next with two that eluded everyone else in the state, Bewick's Wren and Worm-eating Warbler.

Ruth Phipps is new to the club this year with one, she banded the only Blue Grosbeak in 1974.

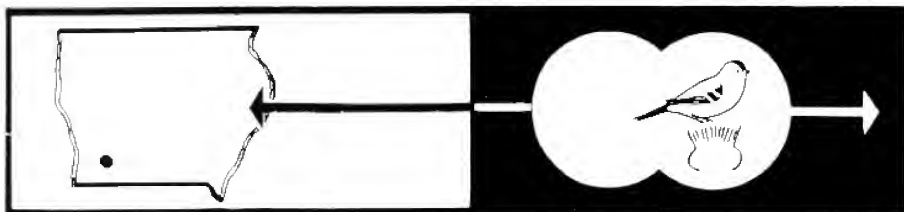
Hey you guys, what are you doing (or not doing) to our Bluebirds? Only 56 this year, down from highs of 449 in 1966, 341 in 1965, and every year less. We are slipping folks. So many more things could be said, space prevents it. We had a great year -- a better one to all in '75.

Bander	Species	Individuals
Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres	98	2,540
Gladys Black	23	88
Richard B. Crawford	7	94
Mrs. W. C. DeLong	78	1,299
Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs	117	2,606
Kenneth Formanek	21	109
Iowa Conservation Commission	9	5,432
Ann Johnson	18	121
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Layton	117	2,774
Darwin D. Mosman	69	484
Peter C. Petersen	121	5,951
Ruth Phipps	76	1,536
Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart	18	82
Dean M. Roosa	2	19
Mrs. Donald Walters	47	270
Total	187	23,405

Green Heron	1	Great Horned Owl	14
Mallard	523	Barred Owl	2
Black Duck	1	Saw-whet Owl	7
Pintail	12	Chuck-will's-widow	1
Green-winged Teal	12	Whip-poor-will	10
Blue-winged Teal	638	Poor-will	1
Northern Shoveler	9	Common Nighthawk	6
Wood Duck	951	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	9
Sharp-shinned Hawk	13	Belted Kingfisher	3
Red-tailed Hawk	11	Common Flicker	139
Broad-winged Hawk	7	Red-bellied Woodpecker	33
American Kestrel	12	Red-headed Woodpecker	33
Bobwhite	3	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	12
Chukar	1	Hairy Woodpecker	26
Virginia Rail	1	Downy Woodpecker	204
Sora	2	Eastern Kingbird	39
American Coot	21	Great Crested Flycatcher	52
Simpalmed Plover	1	Eastern Phoebe	45
American Woodcock	4	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	121
Spotted Sandpiper	3	Acardian Flycatcher	39
Solitary Sandpiper	1	Alder Flycatcher	1
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	Willow Flycatcher	144
Least Sandpiper	9	Least Flycatcher	186
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2	Unidentified Empidonax	1
Mourning Dove	3,043	Eastern Wood Pewee	35
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	21	Olive-sided Flycatcher	9
Black-billed Cuckoo	14	Tree Swallow	4
Screech Owl	7	Bank Swallow	6

Rough-winged Swallow	10	Yellow-rumped Warbler	353
Barn Swallow	67	Black-throated Green Warbler ..	12
Cliff Swallow	51	Blackburnian Warbler	6
Purple Martin	48	Chestnut-sided Warbler	115
Blue Jay	324	Bay-breasted Warbler	25
Common Crow	6	Blackpoll Warbler	52
Black-capped Chickadee	228	Pine Warbler	3
Carolina Chickadee	3	Palm Warbler	29
Tufted Titmouse	58	Ovenbird	251
White-breasted Nuthatch	45	Northern Waterthrush	89
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	Louisiana Waterthrush	4
Brown Creeper	98	Kentucky Warbler	3
House Wren	227	Connecticut Warbler	5
Winter Wren	60	Mourning Warbler	42
Bewick's Wren	1	MacGillivay's Warbler	1
Carolina Wren	3	Common Yellow throat	292
Long-billed Marsh Wren	3	Yellow-breasted Chat	5
Short-billed Marsh Wren	23	Hooded Warbler	2
Mockingbird	15	Wilson's Warbler	81
Gray Catbird	621	Canada Warbler	38
Brown Thrasher	235	American Redstart	176
Robin	574	House Sparrow	13
Wood Thrush	26	Bobolink	9
Hermit Thrush	197	Eastern Meadowlark	10
Swainson's Thrush	334	Western Meadowlark	3
Gray-cheeked Thrush	104	Yellow-headed Blackbird	78
Veery	38	Red-winged Blackbird	209
Eastern Bluebird	56	Orchard Oriole	14
Golden-crowned Kinglet	265	Northern Oriole	146
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	642	Rusty Blackbird	7
Cedar Waxwing	12	Brewer's Blackbird	1
Loggerhead Shrike	8	Common Grackle	267
Starling	38	Brown-headed Cowbird	83
White-eyed Vireo	6	Scarlet Tanager	24
Bell's Vireo	6	Summer Tanager	1
Yellow-throated Vireo	16	Cardinal	268
Solitary Vireo	65	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	260
Red-eyed Vireo	193	Blue Grosbeak	1
Philadelphia Vireo	31	Indigo Bunting	322
Warbling Vireo	42	Dickcissel	25
Black-and-white Warbler	109	Purple Finch	634
Worm-eating Warbler	1	Common Redpoll	19
Golden-winged Warbler	24	Pine Siskin	445
Blue-winged Warbler	3	American Goldfinch	1,716
Tennessee Warbler	221	Red Crossbill	5
Orange-crowned Warbler	131	Rufous-sided Towhee	23
Nashville Warbler	334	Savannah Sparrow	12
Northern Parula	2	Grasshopper Sparrow	9
Yellow Warbler	44	Henslow's Sparrow	1
Magnolia Warbler	233	Vesper Sparrow	6
Cape May Warbler	1	Lark Sparrow	8
Black-throated Blue Warbler ..	6	Dark-eyed Junco	2,034

Tree Sparrow	473	Fox Sparrow	183
Chipping Sparrow	104	Lincoln's Sparrow	310
Clay-colored Sparrow	13	Swamp Sparrow	140
Field Sparrow	124	Song Sparrow	404
Harris' Sparrow	150	Total species	187
White-crowned Sparrow	38	Total individuals	23,405
White-throated Sparrow	547		



Page, Fremont, Montgomery, Mills, Taylor and Adams Counties

MRS. FRANCIS BRALEY MRS. WAYNE PHIPPS MRS. DONALD WALTERS
SHENANDOAH, IOWA SHENANDOAH, IOWA ESSEX, IOWA

Twice each year, southwest Iowa is the site of one of nature's most spectacular displays -- the migration of the Snow Geese. Hundreds of thousands of geese, supplemented by migrating ducks and wading birds, stop in the Riverton bottoms and the Forney's Lake area of Fremont County enroute north in the spring and south in the autumn. Anyone who has watched the endless lacy lines of geese come into the roosting ground at sundown will never forget the sight.

Interstate 29, which runs parallel to the Missouri River north and south through Fremont and Mills counties, has numerous roadside borrow pits and they attract migratory waterfowl. Unique are the loess bluffs on the east side of the interstate, bluffs that stretch from northern Iowa into Missouri. Hawks, vultures and eagles are frequently sighted soaring on the wind currents above the hills.

Southwest Iowa also has the added advantage of being an overlap area for species more commonly seen in the west and the south. Records of such birds include Black-billed Magpie, Lazuli Bunting, Townsend's Solitaire, Black-headed Grosbeak, Anhinga, Hooded Warbler, White-eyed vireo, Lark Bunting, Cinnamon Teal and Cattle Egret.

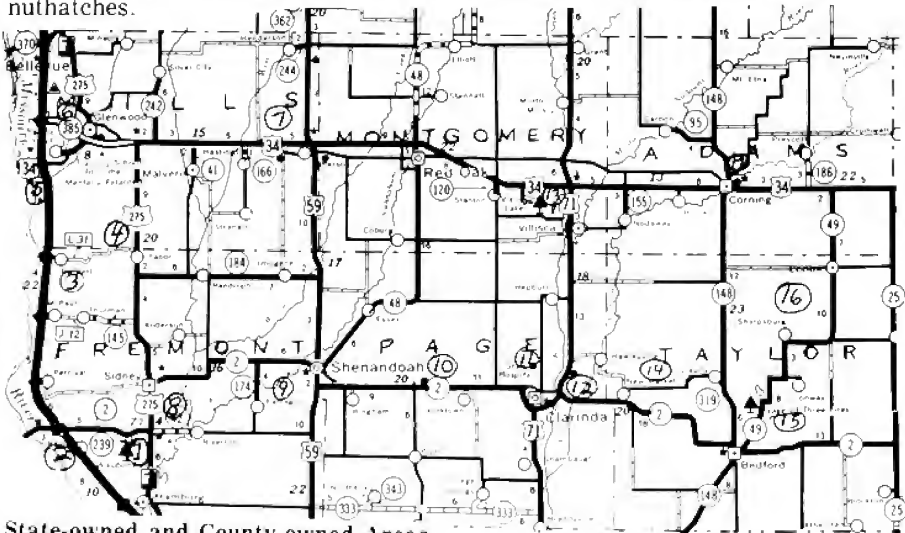
STATE PARK

Waubonsie State Park, located between Hamburg and Sidney in Page County on Highway 2 is 1,129 acres, situated in the loess bluffs with the Missouri River bottoms below to the west. The wooded hills attract migratory warblers, and provide permanent residence for the more common species. There are nesting records for the Cerulean and Kentucky Warblers, Acadian Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Yellow-breasted Chat. Both Scarlet and Summer Tanagers are seen as well as both species of waterthrush.

Viking Lake State Park, 954 acres located in Montgomery County near Stanton just off highway 34, has a 150 acre lake, created about ten years ago. The lake attracts migratory ducks and sometimes small flocks of Canada Geese. The west side of the lake is edged with brushy woods merging into hay fields and attracts

sparrows and other hedgerow species. Nesting Vesper Sparrows can be found in the area. The east side of the lake is heavily wooded as are most of the many arms of the artificial body of water. Spring and fall migrants include warblers, vireos and thrushes.

Lake of Three Fires, 386 acres located in Taylor County four miles northeast of Bedford on primary road 49, has a 125 acre lake. The best birding is the northwest area, which is not accessible by car. One can hike or get to the area by boat. The northern area is shallow and marshy and good for migratory shorebirds. The wooded picnic areas usually abound in woodpeckers, bluebirds, chickadees and nuthatches.



State-owned and County-owned Areas

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Waubonsie State Park | 9. Manti Woods |
| 2. Waubonsie Access | 10. Pioneer County Park |
| 3. Forney's Lake Wildlife Area | 11. State Hospital Grounds |
| 4. Pinky's Glen County Park | 12. Nodaway Valley Park |
| 5. State Wildlife Area (Plattsmouth Exit of I-29) | 13. Viking Lake State Park |
| 6. Pony Creek County Park | 14. Windmill County Park |
| 7. Willow Slough State Wildlife Area | 15. Lake of Three Fires |
| 8. Riverton State Wildlife Area | 16. Wilson's Park |
| | 17. Lake Icaria State Park |

FREMONT COUNTY

Fremont County provides the best birding of the six-county Southwest Iowa area. The Riverton Wildlife Area of 2,600 acres, which includes the East and West Nishnabotna rivers and the bottomlands and sloughs between, is a haven for wildfowl. The flooded fields are excellent for shorebirds during migration, and there is a wide variety of sandpipers, Piping Plovers, Black-bellied and Golden Plover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, dowitchers, Hudsonian Godwit, Western and White-rumped Sandpipers, Stilt Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Egret, Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night Heron and Little Blue Heron, to name a few. In the fall of '74 state conservationist Donald Priebe saw five Sandhill Cranes at the Riverton area. A nesting Prothonotary Warbler and an Anhinga were seen at the same small pond west of the Riverton area. King and Virginia Rails are seen in rush filled ditches, as are Soras. Wintering flocks of Mallards frequently number

100,000 and Snow Geese range from 50,000-1000,000 on the Christmas census.

The Manti Woods, located south of Shenandoah, is a stand of native hickory with buckbrush and native wildflowers and excellent for migratory warblers. The Yellow-breasted Chat has nested in the area as well as the Carolina Wren, Wood Thrush, Rufous-sided Towhee, Warbling Vireo, Great Horned and Barred Owl. A Hooded Warbler was banded in the spring of 1974 and observed for several weeks. Bluebirds, grosbeaks, Eastern Phoebe, E. Wood Pewee, woodpeckers, Great Crested Flycatchers, and Brown Thrashers abound.

Forney's Lake, located between Barlett and Thurman off Interstate 29 (Bartlett exit) is one of the main stopping points for Snow Geese. The marshy lake also attracts a wide variety of other wildfowl, including White Pelicans. There are Double-crested cormorant, bald and Golden Eagles, nesting Yellow-headed Blackbirds, American Avocet, American and Least Bittern, Cattle Egret and Cinnamon Teal. Great Blue Herons are abundant.

A new state-owned area is the Waubonsie Access, located at the east end of the Missouri River bridge on Highway 2 across from Nebraska City. There are 60 acres in this site.

PAGE COUNTY

Page County's productive land lies in gently rolling hills, mostly cultivated, and rich Nishnabotna River bottomland, many acres owned by the wholesale nurseries for which Shenandoah is famous. Farm ponds and backwater along the river provide limited waters for pond ducks and shorebirds. Pioneer County Park on highway 2 between Shenandoah and Clarinda has a small lake which attracts ducks and Black Terns. Shenandoah's Rose Hill Cemetery and nearby Waubonsie City Park has good migratory birding --- warblers, sparrow, thrushes, vireos and flycatchers, as well as American Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, both Red and White-winged Crossbill, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Cedar and Bohemian Waxwings.

The grounds of the State Mental Health Institute at Clarinda, with a wide variety of evergreen and deciduous trees, also draws migratory birds as well as summer residents. Schenck's pond at the east edge of Clarinda along the Nodaway River usually has mergansers, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup and occasionally Common Goldeneye. This pond is on private land. There are also a number of ponds in the watershed area located north of Shenandoah. The ponds are on private land but the owners will usually allow access to birders. These are most interesting in early spring and late fall.

Nodaway Valley Park located in the hills just northeast of Clarinda off Highway 71 has a good summer population of bluebirds, kingbirds and Warbling Vireos. From the picnic grounds Great Blue Heron can usually be seen winging along the Nodaway River below.

Yards and gardens in Shenandoah have provided interesting records through the years. Among these listed are American Woodcock, Chuck-wills-widow, Bewick's Wren, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Yellow-breasted Chat, Cape May Warbler, Pine Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County contains 12 townships with Red Oak the county seat. Viking Lake is the only lake in the county. However, many farms have the watershed ponds. About 80 percent of the rolling hill land is in cultivation for agricultural row crops. At one time there were many groves of oak trees (thus the

name Red Oak) and pasture land of blue grass. The Eastern and Western Meadowlark, Horned Lark, Dickcissel, Field, Chipping, Vesper, Swamp and Grasshopper Sparrow are common in the area. One may also find the Indigo Bunting, kingbird, Common Yellowthroat, Red-headed Woodpecker, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Northern Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Phoebe, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Bob-white and Ring-necked Pheasant. The Eastern Bluebird, Rufous-sided Towhee, Red-tailed Hawk, Long-eared Owl, Barred Owl and Great Horned Owl nest in the area. Some summers the Mockingbird, Blue Grosbeak and Lark Sparrow frequent the area to raise their young.

The Harris' Sparrow is a regular winter resident along with the Tree Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. The White-winged Junco, now listed under the Dark-eyed, was banded in the fall of 1973. Another rare visitor is the Townsend Solitaire with one being banded in the fall of 1968 and the species was seen again in 1970. Some winters bring the Snowy Owl and the Common Redpoll. On occasion the Red-shafted race of the Common Flicker can be found at the winter feeders.

MILLS COUNTY

The Interstate 29 borrow pits in Mills County are probably the best birding areas in the county. Migration is excellent, and several of the ponds attract summer concentrations of herons and egrets. Nesting ducks have been observed and American Bittern and Black Terns recorded. Particularly good is the state wildlife area on the west side of the Plattsburgh exit. There are several county parks, including Pinky's Glen west of Tabor, and Pony Creek Park just east of Interstate 29 on a local road leading to Glenwood. Willow Slough is a state wildlife area, located north of Emerson on a country road which goes to Henderson. There are numerous back roads in the county which have not fallen to the indiscriminate bulldozing that has cleared so many hedge-rowed roads in other areas, and these wooded roads are excellent for sparrows, Indigo Bunting, etc.

ADAMS COUNTY

A new state lake is being constructed four miles north of Corning in Adams County, called Lake Icaria, which will have 700 acres of water when completed. The surrounding area is expected to be owned by the state and the county. This should add an excellent birding spot for this county. Adams and Taylor counties, the eastern tier of the six-county Southwest Iowa area, are wooded and very hilly, with considerable grazing land and fewer acres in grain crops. The creek running just south of Corning between the railroad tracks and Highway 34 has a boggy area food for Common Snipe and is typical of the small marsh areas attractive to birds in this county.

TAYLOR COUNTY

Taylor's County's Viking Lake is probably the best birding area and is good for summer and winter population as well as migratory birds. There are two county parks, Wilson Park, southwest of Lenox and Windmill Park east of New Market. The area state conservationist says that the southeast corner of the county near Blockton is a "good birding area." Brushy roadsides in Taylor County are excellent for leisurely rides and easy birding. Cardinals, meadowlark, orioles, cuckoo, Indigo Bunting, etc., are always seen in summer.

Field Reports

The extent to which a season is "interesting" is usually determined by the number of rarities found. By this criterion the current spring would rank as one of

the best: Red-throated Loon, Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Surf and White-winged Scoters, Oldsquaw, Turkey, Burrowing Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Green-tailed Towhee were all reported.

Unusually large numbers of waterfowl were seen in many areas. The prevailing weather in the north, in much of March and April, was evidently not conducive to further migration and the geese and ducks were "pinned down" here. Although most lakes and ponds were frozen, many fields were flooded and these were frequented by the birds. In addition to the numbers being greater than in many earlier years, the make-up of the flocks differed also. Several small flocks of White-fronted Geese, usually found in the western part of the state, were observed in the Webster City and Polk City areas. Redheads and Canvasbacks have appeared to be decreasing in recent years, but both species were seen in surprisingly large numbers. Another deviation from the usual migration pattern was the replacement of the Mallard as the most numerous duck by the Lesser Scaup with the Ring-necked second. Mallards were almost rare in Polk Co.

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorants. The few Common Loons mentioned were later than usual in arriving. A Red-throated Loon was seen on 18 April on Union Grove Lake, but was not present the next day (EE). An unusual number of Horned Grebes (RM), and 12 seen on 20 April (RH), but others reported few. Eared Grebes were in good numbers (RM). A Western Grebe was seen near Pleasantville on 29 April (Ann Johnson, fide GB). A migration of White Pelicans was observed on 22 April (EG), and 3 were seen on 13 April (RM). Cormorants were seen on 15 April (FK) and 20 April (NH).

Hérons, Bitterns, Ibis. Great Blue Herons were reported from a number of areas, but there is no evidence of a heronry at Red Rock Refuge this year (GB). Green Herons were thought down (RM), but up (PK). Cattle Egrets again appeared; two sightings of 4 and 3 near Polk City on 28 April (DM), 4 on the 27th near Pleasantville (GB), 5 on the 30th at Ottumwa (CA), and 1, joined after a few days by another, north of Seymour, no date (CS). Great Egrets were widely observed in April and early May. Reports of Black-crowned Night Herons were not uncommon, but the only Yellow-crowned was seen on 3 May near Coralville (LS). A Least Bittern was seen, no date, (RM). Two independent reports of 2 *Plegadis* sp. could refer to the same individuals. Glenn E. Jones, W. L. Biologist at Rockwell City saw two Glossy Ibis 2 miles south of Lake View on 9 May, and Dick Weiner, Conservation Officer at Black Hawk Lake S.P. told of 2 White-faced Ibis on the same date (fide E.H.).

Swans, Geese, Ducks. The only Whistling Swan was at Lansing on 28 February (DK). Canada and Snow Geese were generally numerous, but late in arriving at Red Rock (GB). They were seen in the thousands (LF, EG). There were 11 Giant Canadas and 1 Hutchin's early in April (EG). At least 500 White-fronted were in the Hamburg area, and small flocks in northeast Polk Co. (MOB). All of the more common species of ducks were thought numerous, and a concentration on 5 April was estimated at 10,000 (NH). The only mention of Mallards being unusually plentiful told of one thousand at Big Marsh (RH). Many Wood Ducks were seen by a number of observers with 75-100 at Roman's Lake early in April (HD). Flocks of Redheads were seen on 15 April (FK), and 75-100 were on Rock Creek Lake on 22 March (HD). Ring-necked seemed more numerous than usual and Canvasbacks also. Several hundred of the latter were seen on 13 April, and a flock of 60 was on one pond (GB). Lesser Scaup were unusually numerous. Greater Scaups were reported as seen on 6 and 7 April near Hamburg (EG) and north of Des Moines (SS). Golden-eyed were still present on the late date 17 May (NH). An old squaw was seen on 19 April (RM). On 25 April a male Surf Scoter was observed on Wyth



Surf Scoter near Iowa City

Photo by F. W. Kent

Park Lake by Clarise Hewett. (fide EE) and the following day Mrs. Ehlers saw the female. Subsequently two White-winged Scoters which were present were observed at close range by several observers (EE). A male Surf Scoter was present near Iowa City on 9 May (FK) and was still present on the 19th (NH). A Hooded Merganser was seen on the unusual date 5 January (LS). Red-breasted Mergansers were on Cedar Lake from 22 March to 25 April, the most seen being 72. A flock of 70 was on Roberts Creek L. (GB), but none was seen (RJ).

Vultures, Hawks. Migrating Turkey Vultures were reported by several. Goshawk sightings were unusual; on 24 March (WJ), 2 on 7 April (EG), and 2 on the 19th (RM). Sharp-shinned were seen twice (RM), with 7 netted (PP). Cooper's were seen in late March and the first half of April (EG, DM, RH). Red-tailed seemed fewer in Polk Co. and only 1 nest found with several pairs seen (GB). A big migration was noted on 19 March (NH). There is encouraging news of the Red-shouldered. The two Red-tailed attributed to Russell Hays in March Field Reports were Red-shouldered. One was seen near Luther on 6 April (WMB), and one on the 5th (NH) who also had another report by N. Newlon, and 3 were observed (PP). The migration of Broad-winged was noted by several and 5 were netted (PP). A Swainson's was banded on 15 April (DM). An immature Golden Eagle was seen on 19 March (NH), and one was near Coggon on the 22nd (LS). Bald Eagle reports have been relatively numerous. Ospreys were reported (LS, RM, NH). A Peregrine and a Merlin were seen on 5 April (RM), and a Merlin on March 8 (PP, MLP). Many Kestrels have been seen and 7 were banded on two occasions (DM). It will be interesting to learn how many remained to nest.

Pheasants, Turkeys, Whooping Cranes. There appear to be many Ring-necks (EG, GB). Eight Turkeys were sighted on 3 May (EG). On 11 April a report of 5 Whooping Cranes northeast of Adel was received (fide AH).

Shorebirds. This group was generally thought fewer, with two dissents (WJ, PK). Virginia Rails were seen on 5 May (FK) and 13 May at Goose Lake (DH). A "first" was the sighting of a Purple Gallinule near Promise City on 10 May (CS). Coots have been unusually numerous with "millions" (RM). Hendrickson Slough had 2 Piping Plover on 8 May (RM). Killdeer were very numerous (RH). There appear fewer reports of Golden Plover with the only sizeable flocks 200 on 13 May (LS), and 100 at Calmar on the 15th (DK). Black-bellied were even fewer with sightings on 13 May (LS), and two observations in mid-month (DM). Ruddy Turnstones were seen on 16 May, Des Moines Sewage Plant, (DM), on the 17th (NH), and another, no date, (WJ). A number of American Woodcocks' reports included one on the rather early date 21 March (LS), while 8 were netted (PP). A Willet was on Swan L. on 30 April (LS), and the Laytons banded one on the 12th (fide RJ). An Upland Sandpiper seen on 1 May (DM) was the only report. A flock of White-rumped Sandpipers was seen on 17 May (NH). Several Marbled Godwits with Hudsonian were seen (MB, DM), and other Marbled were observed 19 April and 17 May (NH), 13 May (LS), and 17 May (RM). A rather early Sanderling was seen on 20 April (RH). An Avocet near Iowa City was seen on 10 May (TS). Wilson's

Phalaropes were thought more numerous than usual (RM).

Gulls, Terns. During late March and April there were 200 Ring-billed Gulls at Red Rock (GB), with many present at Coralville, due possibly to the fish-kill (NH). Several flocks of Franklin's Gulls were seen (NH), with 2 seen at Credit Island (PP). Some Bonaparte's were reported (EG), with one at Des Moines (MB). A few Least Terns were seen (EG). Black Terns were thought way down (RM, DM).

Cuckoos, Owls. Cuckoos are either extremely scarce or very late in arriving. A Yellow-billed on 7 May (RP), and Black-billed on 11 and 17 May (NH). Black-billed numerous the last few days (PK). There is a good population of Great Horned Owls (LF). A Long-eared was seen 22 February and a Short-eared the day previous (LS). Saw-whets were banded on 15 and 22 April (PP). A Burrowing Owl was present from the 8th to the 10th of April, but not seen subsequently (EA) (see longer note).

Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Kingfishers. A Chuck-will's-widow was heard on 13 May near Eddyville (RJ), another at Dubuque 22 May (GC) and one at Pacific Junction on 21 and 23 May. Joan Dashner. Nighthawks appeared rather early on 4 May (RJ). An early Hummingbird was seen on 25 April (RM). Kingfishers were few (RJ).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers. There was a good migration of Flickers (Yellow-shafted). Red-headed appear way up. Sapsuckers were easy to find in April (NH), with more than usual in Des Moines and Marble Rock (PK). Empidonax are scarce (DeL). Western Kingbirds were observed early in May (TS, LF). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen near Hubbard on 30 April by Mrs. Dennis Eller and Mrs. Jon Foust (fide GB). The only Phoebe reported was one seen in a snowstorm on the early date 24 March (RJ). Two early Acadians were seen on 23 and 26 April (RM). No Olive-sided were reported.

Swallows, Titmice, Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens. All swallows have been few (RM). Tree Swallows on 22 March in two areas were very early (NO, PP). Barn Swallow on the same date was likewise early (LF). Purple Martins were a week late in arriving with a shortage of females (DM). Only one Titmouse was seen all spring (RM). Red-breasted Nuthatches, scarce all winter, were seen in late April and the first half of May (RM, PP, WJ, NH). Many Brown Creepers were seen (RJ), but thought scarce (PK). A Winter Wren was observed early in April (NH), and another on the 23rd (PK).

Thrushes, Kinglets, Pipits, Shrikes. Robins arrived some later than usual, but in good numbers. A flock of 100 was seen on 17 March (RH). Hermit, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked were thought more numerous than usual. Bluebirds were seen late in March in Lucas, Marion, and Warren Cos. (McG), with 3 at Forneys L. on 23 March (RH). They were scarce (RM, NH), but many at Lake Keomah on 30 March. At Oskaloosa there was but one house of 50 that was occupied (RJ). Kinglet populations were thought good with a big wave on 16 17 April (EA). A Water Pipit was seen in late March (WJ). There are 3 active Loggerhead Shrike nests, and 2 other shrikes seen (GB). There were more than usual seen (DM), with a migration on 13 April and none since (RM).

Vireos, Warblers. The consensus is that vireos are either down appreciably or very late in arriving. A Bell's was banded on 17 May (RP), and several were seen and heard in Des Moines on the 16th (WHB). No Solitary has been seen and only 1 Red-eyed banded (GDeL). Philadelphia's were banded (DeL, PP, RP), with observations (LS, NH). No Warbling have been seen (GDeL) with almost none in Des Moines. The warbler migration was spotty with a few waves of varying volume reported and some with no appreciable wave. Black-and-white was plentiful (GDeL). Golden-winged were more than usual or rather common (RM, NH). A

Blue-winged was banded 27 April (GDeL) and they were rather common and acting territorially (NH). Tennessees were few (DeL) and fewer than usual in Des Moines. An early Orange-crowned appeared on 10 April (EG), but none was seen (DeL). Parulas were seen on 6 May (LS) and 11 May (MO), and thought more than usual (RM). Ceruleans were observed early in May (LS, NO), but could not be found where they summered last year in Polk Co. No Blackpolls were seen (GDeL). A Pine Warbler was recorded on 3 May (NO). Palms were numerous and more than 50 netted (PP). A very early Ovenbird was seen 14 April (MN) and they were in good numbers (GDeL). A Mourning Warbler on 14 May was the only report (PP). A Yellow-breasted Chat was seen by Jean Broley (fide RP), and one was netted on 16 May (PP). No Wilson's appeared (GDeL). An unusual number of Hooded Warblers were seen; 7 May near Boone by Jeff Hruska, 15 May at Ames by Terrence Quinn (fide NO), 7 May (DM), 30 April (LS), and netted 23 April and 3 May (PP). There were many Canadas at Black Hawk Lake (DH), but none were seen (GDeL).

Icterids, Tanagers, Finches. Bobolinks were thought up (RJ). Early Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen on 12 April (DM). Flocks have been reported from other areas, (RP, LF, NH). Pairs of Orchard Orioles were seen on 10 May (GB, NH), and a single the next day (LF). Four Rusty Blackbirds were either late wintering birds or early migrants at Lansing on 28 February (DK). One was seen during a snowstorm on 2 April (GB). Small numbers of Brewers were seen on various dates. No Tanagers were seen (RM), but a Scarlet Tanager on 27 April was rather early (NH). A Blue Grosbeak banded on 23 April was a "first" (PP). Dickcissels were numerous the first week in May (GB). Purple Finches, which were rather scarce all winter, came in numbers to feeders in February and March. A feeder in Knoxville was visited by 8 Redpolls on 1 and 2 April (fide GB). The only Pine Siskin seen was netted on 30 April (GB). The most unusual observation in Iowa for a long time was the finding of a Green-tailed Towhee on 5 May in the town of Storm Lake (see longer note, ed.). Grasshopper Sparrows were many (RJ). LeContes were seen on 29 March at Hendrickson's Slough (NO), and one was banded by the Laytons on 15 April (RJ). A Sharp-tailed was seen on 6 May (LS). A flock of 2-300 Tree Sparrows was seen on 30 March (RH). A Lark Sparrow was banded on 5 May (BW). Chipping Sparrows are numerous (RJ). Clay-colored Sparrows were more widely reported than usual. White-crowned were numerous (RP, RJ) but few were seen in Des Moines. Lincoln's Sparrows have been rather few in Des Moines, but very numerous (RJ). There were still 12 Snow Buntings on 10 March (RM), and a late one was seen on 5 April (BB).

Contributors: Eugene Armstrong, Booneville; Chas. Ayres, Ottumwa; Mrs. Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Wm. Boller, Des Moines; Mrs. Margaret Brooke, Des Moines; Mrs. Beth Brooks, Des Moines; Mrs. Virginia Crocker, Storm Lake; Herb Dorow, Newton; Mrs. Genevieve DeLong, Lamoni; Mrs. Evelyn Ehlers, Reinbeck; Larry Farmer, Westfield; Mrs. Edw. Getscher, Hamburg; Nicholas Halmi, Iowa City; Mrs. Agnes Harvey, Adel; Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Sioux City; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Robert Jessen, Oskaloosa; Warren Jones, Williamsburg; Fred Kent, Iowa City; Ms. Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Darwin Koenig, Decorah; Rick McGeough, Des Moines; Dick Mooney, Des Moines; Dean Mosman, Ankeny; Ron Muilenburg, Webster City; Mrs. Marcia Nicholson, Des Moines; Nick Osness, Ames; Peter and Mary Lou Petersen, Davenport; Ms. Lillian Serbousek, Cedar Rapids; Mrs. Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Mrs. Charlotte Scott, Seymour; Tom Staudt, Iowa City; Steve Stewart, Des Moines; Mrs. Betty Walters, Essex. Notes for the September Issue are due by 15 September. Woodward H. Brown, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines, 50312.

General Notes

Burrowing Owl near Des Moines -- Eugene Armstrong, a regular contributor to **Field Reports**, called on the morning of April 8 to say "a small owl with no ear-tufts" had been seen in one of the outbuildings on a farm 15 miles west of Des Moines. When he called again in the afternoon to say the owl was still there, my wife and I started out in the rain with the hope of identifying the owl. We met Gene and were shown where the owl had perched. After considerable tramping around in the rain and mud without any success we returned to the car, leaving Gene to continue the search. He finally flushed the owl from a pile of fence posts whereupon it flew to a fence some distance from us. As we watched it from the car it again took off and landed in a field even farther away. Disregarding the down-pour, Gene circled around the owl and caused it to fly toward us where it lit on a clod and stood in full view. Any doubt as to its identity was immediately dispelled; the "small owl with no ear-tufts" was a Burrowing Owl, the first recorded in Iowa since the late 1960's. **WOODWARD H. BROWN**, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines.

One Day Bald Eagle Count — February 8, 1975 -- Again, most of the Mississippi River was covered from its source to below St. Louis and then into Kentucky. The Wisconsin River was covered by Terry Ingram and party. The Illinois River was covered from Ottawa to Grafton. This river was handled by Dr. L. H. Princen. The area of the Mississippi from Bellevue to Warsaw, Ill. was again covered by cars and a plane. Dr. Hayden DeDecker flew the plane with Peter Petersen and Ernie Sadler doing the counting. The St. Louis Audubon Society had the most people

Location	Adults	Immatures	Unaged	Total
Lock & Dam 3 thru Lock & Dam 11	213	43	2	258
Lock & Dam 12 to Lock & Dam 22	270	74	2	346
From Lock & Dam 22 to below St. Louis	73	35	16	124
Illinois River	146	124	14	284
River Totals	702	276	34	1012
River percentages	71.8 %	28.2 %		
Illinois Wildlife Refuges	30	41	0	71
Kentucky	19	29	0	48
Totals	751	346	34	1131
Percentages	68.46 %	31.54 %		
Golden Eagles				
Illinois Refuges	1	6	0	7
Kentucky	1	1	0	2
Tennessee	0	0	7	7
Totals	2	7	7	16
For the period 1962 thru 1966 an average of 601 eagles were found — percentage 80 to 20 percent.				
For the period 1967 thru 1971 an average of 745 eagles were found — percentage 72 to 28 percent.				
For the period 1972 thru 1975 an average of 1,028 eagles were found — percentage 70.5 to 29.5 percent.				
Missouri	18	6	0	24 (3 reports)
Tennessee	80	65	22	167 (complete state)
Totals	98	71	22	191
Percentage	58 %	42 %		

counting. Lockmasters, Fish & Wildlife and Game Management, Bird Clubs and others took part. Thanks to all.

Comment: The weather was very bad from Lock & Dam 17 south. The Illinois River had freezing and blustery weather. A few parties were unable to be out. However, the rivers were nearly completely covered. On the Illinois River the area from Grafton to Kampsville upstream for about 35 miles had a large concentration of eagles. See report of 1972 count. There were 126 adults, 124 immatures and 14 not aged. This area is close to the Mississippi. There is a strong possibility that some of these eagles might of come from some waterfowl refuge. Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge had eagles dropping from 54 adults and 92 immatures on December 7 to 4 adults and 26 immatures on January 7 to 2 adults only on the count date. Weather prevented a count in Nebraska with only one eagle on the count date. A count was made on February 22 from Grand Island to Kearney and 18 adults and 5 immatures were found. This count was made by the Nebraska Ornithologist's Union. The Kentucky count was by the Kentucky Ornithological Society. The Tennessee count was by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the TOS, the Fish & Wildlife Service and by the Sierra Club. The Columbia Audubon Society found 20 of the Missouri eagles.

The original intent of this one day count was to show increases or decreases in the ratio of adults to immatures. Results for the past four years tend to show something else. Each year waters above our count area freeze. The increased numbers of eagles and the increased numbers of immature must be caused by eagles coming to the Mississippi River from south, east or west. If these come from Fish & Wildlife areas where numbers of crippled waterfowl are, then the ratio of immatures would be very biased. It is well known that these waterfowl areas attract a high percentage of the younger eagles. It is reasonable to assume that the count does show that the eagles are doing fairly well. However the increased numbers of eagles with the increase in immatures must be used with caution. ELTON FAWKS, 510 Island Ave., East Moline, Ill.

Green-tailed Towhee at Storm Lake -- On May 5 around noon, Mrs. Barney Campbell of 306 W. Ninth St., Storm Lake, telephoned me to say she had a bird in her yard that she had never seen before. She had consulted **Birds of North America**, and determined it could not be anything else but a Green-tailed Towhee. Of course, I hurried over. Their backyard is entirely in grass, and at the back of their property is an Alpine Currant hedge. The bird was scratching around in dead leaves underneath the hedge. From time to time, it would come out in the open, and in the sunlight, we could distinctly see the olive green back, rufous crown, and conspicuous white throat as described in Peterson's **Field Guide to Western Birds**. Since the bird was obliging enough to stay around most of the day, it was seen and identified by Mr. and Mrs. Barney Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Verne Campbell, my husband and me. My husband came home around 5 P.M., and upon hearing of our exciting news, rushed out to photograph the bird. Unfortunately, he was not successful in getting a good photograph, and the bird left. He did see it long enough to verify our identification. VIRGINIA R. CROCKER, 720 E. 1st St., Storm Lake.

Snowy Owl Sightings in Iowa, Winter of 1974-1975 -- On February 9, 1975, my article on Snowy Owls was published in the **Des Moines Sunday Register** in which I requested readers to report sightings of Snowy Owls. I received a total of 77 observations with the first ones seen in November, 1974, and continuing through March, 1975. I accepted each report as valid since this snowy white owl with the big round head is so distinctive that mistaken identification is unlikely. In most reports the location was pinpointed. GLADYS B. BLACK, Pleasantville, Iowa.

Book Reviews

American Birds -- Roland C. Clement -- Grosset and Dunlop, New York -- 159 p., 118 color photographs -- 1973 -- \$2.95.

An introductory book featuring some fine photographs, one of the World of Knowledge Series. It is in no way a field guide, covering only the 118 species illustrated with a few notes on the orders they represent. The introduction touches on why people study birds, groupings, names, the variety of birds, adaptations, guidelines to birding, where to look for birds and life zones. The birds selected are chiefly common but some of the photographs look like mounted specimens.

Those interested in other aspects of natural history should examine other volumes in this series, all of the same length and price as the bird book. They include **Flowers of the World** and **Trees of the World** by Sandra Holmes, and **Rocks and Minerals** by Joel Arem, perhaps the best inexpensive rock and mineral book to come to my attention. ed.

The Dell Encyclopedia of Birds -- Bertel Bruun, illustrated by Paul Singer -- Dell Publishing Co., New York -- 240 p., over 395 color drawings -- 1974 -- \$2.45, paperbound.

A well written, concise encyclopedia which provides a surprisingly large amount of information expressed in easily understood language. It covers the usual specialized terms, family names and some of the best known ornithologists. The color illustrations are small but adequate and enhance the text. It includes a brief bibliography and an appendix having scientific and common names for the orders. This little book contains the answers to many questions for the beginner and is also a good source for the more advanced student. ed.

The Bird Watcher's Book -- Edited by John Gooders -- David and Charles, North Pomfret, Vt. -- 173 p., 32 black-and-white photographs -- 1974 -- \$7.95.

This British book is made up of fourteen essays on various aspects of bird watching by as many well known naturalists. The subject matter is varied, including a big day effort in Suffolk; what a bird-watcher is; bowerbirds; Selborne 1774-1974; and palaeontology. The authors include Leslie Brown, Dan Newton and Jim Flegg. The material deals almost entirely with British birds but the ideas expressed apply everywhere. ed.

Attracting Birds to Your Garden -- Editors of Sunset Books -- Lane Books, Menlo Park, California -- 96 p., many black-and-white photographs and drawings -- 1974 -- \$2.45 paperbound.

This book deals with attracting birds from four aspects, by species, feeding, housing and plantings. First it covers in detail 34 species showing their range and giving ways of attracting them. Another 18 species are mentioned more briefly. The next section delves into specific types of feed and feeders and ways to provide water. Next the various types of man-made houses and nesting shelves are described. The final section takes up plantings, first generally and then by plant species. The result is a good reference for ways to increase the variety of birds using your property.

Lane also has a series of five reasonably priced travel guides covering some of the best birding areas. For example the **Sunset Travel Guide to Arizona** is by no means a birding guide but it gives a good summary of attractions in other interest areas. The maps are well done and black-and-white photographs illustrate the text. This and other travel guides are paperbound and sell for \$2.96. ed.

Bird Finding in Illinois -- compiled by Elton Fawks, edited by Paul H. Lobik -- Illinois Audubon Society, 1017 Burlington Ave., Downer's Grove, Ill. -- 100 p., many maps and line drawings -- 1975, paperbound -- \$3.95.

The long awaited guidebook to most of the top birding areas in Illinois is finally in print. First proposed in 1956, it is the cooperative effort of birders from all over Illinois, much like the project now underway in Iowa. The approach is to divide the state into five sections, with the areas located on a map of their section and in many cases pin-pointed on a more detailed map of part of the section. A total of 79 areas are covered, some actually several adjacent locations, making nearly 100 locations. Supplements cover the state parks, conservation areas and nature preserves, giving acreage, county and address or nearest town. These areas are omitted from the other coverage. The format for each area consists of directions, habitat description, best vintage points, birds to be expected and season to expect them, restriction if any, general data and additional notes.

Since this reviewer contributed several of the area summaries for the Quad-City area it would be rather meaning less to comment critically on them. However some nearby areas are familiar and comments seem in order. The report on Lock and Dam 13 fails to mention the small breeding colony of Double-crested Cormorants, the only such colony known in northern Illinois and one long established in the area. It is also a good area for Snow Buntings in late fall and winter, Water Pipits, gulls and terns in migration. The report on the New Boston area is more complete but omits breeding Yellow-crowned Night Herons and Cerulean Warblers. The book is generally free from typographical errors. Iowans planning to bird in Illinois will surely want a copy. ed.

The Biology of Penguins -- edited by Bernard Stonehouse -- University Park Press, Baltimore -- 555 p., many black-and-white photographs, maps, charts and tables -- 1975 -- \$29.95.

This is an excellent, detailed combination of review articles and new research findings on this fascinating order. The first two sections of the book cover evolution, taxonomy, anatomy and physiology. The remainder of the book takes up behavior and breeding characteristics including recent research on predation, mortality, communication and display. A group of twenty-five contributors including well-known experts and young field-workers collaborated to produce the book. It is printed on very heavy stock and is very well bound. Despite the high cost it is a fine monograph on penguins for the serious ornithologist. ed.

A Special Birding Opportunity -- Recognizing the proficiency of some groups and individuals in bird identification, the management districts of Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge are eager to utilize their expertise. The delegation of additional administrative duties to district managers dictates a need for an alternate resource for collecting data on local bird use. Moreover, required quarterly reports of the occurrences of various bird species further emphasizes the desirability of requesting competent bird observers.

Vehicle access to Louisa Division of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge near Wapello, Iowa and to the Keithsburg Division near Keithsburg, Illinois can be made available by prior request. In return, a copy of the day's field notes, listing species and numbers observed, is requested by the Wapello District Manager. Those wishing to contribute to surveys at any time of year on either or both divisions may contact: GERALD B. GILL, District Manager; Wapello District; Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge; Rural Route 1 Box 75; Wapello, Iowa 52653. Telephone contact with Mr. Gill may be made by calling: A. C. 319-523-6982 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; or A.C. 319-523-6343 after 4:00 p.m. and on weekends.